

THE BOOK WORLD.

Edward King's Pen Portraits of French Leaders.

ANNA DICKINSON ON THE WARPATH.

The Poems of Edith May—An American Songstress.

THE BLACK HILLS.

FRENCH POLITICAL LEADERS. By Edward King. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The Putnam did well in their series of Brief Biographies in French political leaders. Mr. King is a young American journalist who has spent a considerable portion of his life in France, where he has the personal acquaintance of most of the leaders of whom he writes. His books and the men who surround him with unprejudiced eyes, and his opinions are formed with an appreciation and honesty that make his book of more than ordinary interest and value. His observations are keen and intelligent, and his style is graceful and elegant. It is never for a moment dull, but then, who could be in writing of such brilliant Frenchmen? The bare record of their lives would stir the blood of the coldest of men. Mr. King has made a careful study of his subjects, in fact he had been "taking notes" before he was addressed by the Messrs. Putnam. Mr. F. W. Higginson, the editor of this series, says in his preface to this volume, "I know of no existing book in any language which comes so near to comprising just the information needed among us in regard to the present political leaders of France." The work was all written in Paris, where the author is still living in an atmosphere created by the persons of whom he writes, and that fact gives a freshness and charm to the book and lends it its enthusiasm. Mr. King does not claim to have dipped into a critical analysis of his subject, but merely to have given a series of pen portraits of contemporaneous French leaders, and in that object he has succeeded most admirably. Among his most striking sketches are those of Victor Hugo, Adolphe Thiers, Leon Gambetta, Jules Simon, Marshal MacMahon, Edouard Loubet, Emile Olivier and the Comte de Paris. There are in all twenty-three sketches in Mr. King's book. Rochefort, Jules Favre, the Comte de Chambard, the Duc d'Aumale, the Duc de Broglie and Jules Grévy have all interestingly interesting histories.

A PAYING INVESTMENT. By Anna E. Dickinson. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

Miss Dickinson's latest trumpet blast is one of her clearest and strongest, and it is to be hoped that it will penetrate through the thick walls of prejudice and awaken a responsive chord in the many Americans who are in doubt. In this little book, which contains about an hour's reading, will be found all the freshness and pungency that charms the listener in Miss Dickinson's lectures. "A Paying Investment" might arouse more applause were its arguments set forth in the magnetic style and impressive voice of the lecturer, but they could not be any more convincing than as they stand. The investment that it would pay to make is to give the rising generation the proper start—to set it well on its feet before it is taught to run. "We open wide our doors and invite the world to come in. What sort of provision do we make for these guests when they appear? We swallow them, certainly. Do we digest and assimilate them? Or are all the nerve forces used in other channels and exhausted in other enterprises?" Again she says of the American—"He converts himself from a man into a sort of double-barreled action machine; he swallows himself in innumerable holes of business till he is a species of mummy. He drains his body of all its resources to run his money-grinding engine, and is tattered and undermined, or in actual rags, with 'brain trouble' or 'half dead from dyspepsia,' has the supreme satisfaction of hearing people say as he goes by them on the streets, 'A wonderful man, that! wonderful! began life without a dollar, and is worth half a million!' Presently the same people will say as he passes them, 'Carried, not walking—Dead!' Of course he is dead. No man could hold out at his pace long. I hear his will is to be contested." It is no new thing for writers to cry out against the absorbing interest American men have in "business," but Miss Dickinson, even when she handles a trite subject, puts it so that we see it in a new and stronger light. The chapter in which she calls upon men to do their duty in local politics is particularly convincing. The way many men neglect their duties as voters is most reprehensible. There are hundreds of men who only stay away from meetings, but neglect to vote on election day; then they complain of bad laws, corrupt officials, etc. "Who governs America to-day?" asks Miss Dickinson, "the people? Nobody believes it, it is governed by the politicians, whose trade, whose business it is. Men of education, of intelligence, of ambition are too busy about their own personal gains and gettings and spendings to hew planks of platforms or to investigate the character of those who are to stand upon them, or to see that the platform is rightly supported." If the platform builders are unfit for gentlemen to associate with, how much less are they fit to rule and govern these same fastidious gentlemen. Suppose that the most intelligent and most substantial men in every ward attended the meetings for office, would not the result be more satisfactory than it is at present? Of course it would. The eve of election, says Miss Dickinson, should be to every man a vigil, and his action at the polls a sacrament. In this country no man can live to himself for himself alone. She discusses the negro vote, and apologizes for its use by saying that we have left them uneducated with this tremendous power.

As a means toward a great end, she recommends compulsory education. With all our free institutions we have more uneducated citizens than many European countries. Of the 23,358,371 persons in this land there are 3,658,144 who can neither read nor write; in brief, one-fifth of the population, and the majority of these are native born Americans. We quote—"There is no disease more subtly penetrating, none more destructive, more surely death freighted to such a government as ours than that of ignorance. And if those who are infected, having the means provided to wash and be made whole, refuse to do so, then, in self-defense, we ought to see that the means they reject are used, and used efficiently to a healing and wholesome end." Miss Dickinson is down on trades unions. "What we want," she says, "is training schools, scientific and polytechnic. There are too many clerks, and not enough skilled artisans among Americans. Let us have more schools, better attended, technical study as a sort of high school for the growth of the common school, so that the one fits the boy for the performance of his general duties as a citizen, so the other may prepare him for the special duties of his trade or art. Let us have more knowledge, more light, for the good of the individual and the good of the whole." The chapters on prison reform are among the strongest in the work and should be read by every legislator in the land. "It costs more to neglect our duties than to accomplish them," says the writer, and so it does. In the last chapter the woman's suffrage question is discussed, not violently or excitedly, but calmly and reasonably. "Women who, as a rule, are so cleanly and careful in their own houses, and such admirable nurses in their own homes, would see that all questions concerning the general health of towns and cities, the general care of hospitals and asylums of all sorts, were better met and answered than they are by the men who now face and settle them. No set of women would keep house in such a filthy way as men keep it in the streets of great cities. No set of women would keep house to such a waste and so little comfort as men keep it in the body of public institutions under their control." In conclusion Miss Dickinson says—"So, not alone for the world's sake, but also for the sake of men and women in connection with time and the things of time, for the sake of character growth, the growth of the soul, do I ask that each man and each woman shall do his or her work where it may be found, and do it till work for them is done."

Twenty-five years ago, the eye soon grows familiar with the signature of "Edith May," attached to poems that draw the reader back to them again and again by the charm of a grace and beauty springing from power, unmistakable if immature, by the wealth of a budding imagination whose perfect blossoming would have placed its owner side by side with Elizabeth Barrett Browning as seer, while her power of artistic utterance already surpassed that of the world known poet, save in a few of the latter's happiest efforts. Yet to-day the little book which holds those collected poems is almost unknown. It was published in 1851 by a Philadelphia house, and followed in 1855 by a second edition; but both were issued in a quiet tone of penance for a second sale. Very soon after the appearance of the second edition magazine readers missed the name which they had learned to welcome, and, although there were some who for years questioned and wondered what had become of one whose writings had made them take her to their hearts as a friend, the surges of time, who so swiftly efface the traces of almost all our lives, swept out of public memory the records of song left by the soaring voice so soon hushed to silence, and the new edition of the singer's little book, published last year, came unheralded, and seems almost unknown. Yet it is a book that must awaken a deep interest in the minds of all lovers of true poetry who may make its acquaintance, and we gladly call it to the attention of a new generation of readers, sure that they will thank us for so doing. It is impossible to study these first fruits of a genius shut out by a hopeless malady from attaining in this world to a perfect harvest, without recognizing in them a power which, had it been suffered to attain its full development, must have made the name of "Edith May" one of the greatest in American literature.

"Edith May" was the name she assumed by a young lady whose real name we violate no confidence in giving as Miss Anna M. Drinker. She came of old and honored Quaker lineage and is by birth a Philadelphian; but she grew up and her mind was formed among the magnificent scenery, the then almost untamed beauty, of Staquahanna county, in a house where wealth and culture combined to give her every advantage in her power, and in a society which, if small, was one to recognize and encourage her genius. She was but seventeen when she began her brief career as the "singer of noble poems." Three things stand out in bold relief from the very beginning of one's acquaintance with what she has written, and grow more and more marked as you know her better—her intimate knowledge and love of nature; the power which the associations of old romance held over her imagination; the inherent dramatic gift which enables her to comprehend and represent truly life and character, and her own—not alone in its mood and circumstance, but in the forces that move it, the passions that sway it and make it what it is. Had health remained to her the world would have had another true dramatic poet. As it is, she has given us nothing but absolute dramatic form save two or three brief translations. But her ballads and narrative poems are alive with dramatic fire and directness. "Edith May" never for an instant comes in between the speaker in the story and the audience. One of her most striking ballads is "Christmas," in which a mother tells the story of the Christ child and that of her own bride to her little one before the kiss of the lay cold folds them in dreamless sleep to awaken on Christmas morning in the beyond. But there are others of them, specially "Lady Clare," "Aline's Choice," "Isabelle" and "The Love Quarrel," which would be the chosen favorites with different readers. Each is delicious in its own way and each is written in a different key. Instead, however, of any of the ballads, we have chosen for quotation this exquisite

Down paths thy lattice;
The virgin's foot
Fold in thy sweet soul
Its night-blooming flowers;
Lakes in the hollow
And clouds in the skies,
Drink in the light
Lillocks into a sort of double-barreled action machine; he swallows himself in innumerable holes of business till he is a species of mummy. He drains his body of all its resources to run his money-grinding engine, and is tattered and undermined, or in actual rags, with 'brain trouble' or 'half dead from dyspepsia,' has the supreme satisfaction of hearing people say as he goes by them on the streets, 'A wonderful man, that! wonderful! began life without a dollar, and is worth half a million!' Presently the same people will say as he passes them, 'Carried, not walking—Dead!' Of course he is dead. No man could hold out at his pace long. I hear his will is to be contested." It is no new thing for writers to cry out against the absorbing interest American men have in "business," but Miss Dickinson, even when she handles a trite subject, puts it so that we see it in a new and stronger light. The chapter in which she calls upon men to do their duty in local politics is particularly convincing. The way many men neglect their duties as voters is most reprehensible. There are hundreds of men who only stay away from meetings, but neglect to vote on election day; then they complain of bad laws, corrupt officials, etc. "Who governs America to-day?" asks Miss Dickinson, "the people? Nobody believes it, it is governed by the politicians, whose trade, whose business it is. Men of education, of intelligence, of ambition are too busy about their own personal gains and gettings and spendings to hew planks of platforms or to investigate the character of those who are to stand upon them, or to see that the platform is rightly supported." If the platform builders are unfit for gentlemen to associate with, how much less are they fit to rule and govern these same fastidious gentlemen. Suppose that the most intelligent and most substantial men in every ward attended the meetings for office, would not the result be more satisfactory than it is at present? Of course it would. The eve of election, says Miss Dickinson, should be to every man a vigil, and his action at the polls a sacrament. In this country no man can live to himself for himself alone. She discusses the negro vote, and apologizes for its use by saying that we have left them uneducated with this tremendous power.

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POEMS. By Edith May. A new edition, elegantly illustrated. New York: James Miller, publisher. Looking over the numbers of the *Home Journal*, of Graham's and of *Saturday's* magazines, published

it, however, nothing but the sober reality—nothing to spoil the serious illusion caused by style and exaggerated stories of Ogibi-like mountains and California valleys. Colonel Dodge's brochure is a truthful statement of the resources and characteristics of the country, ascertained by scientific examination. Professor Newton makes a valuable contribution on the subject of the geological formation of the Black Hills, which is one of the most interesting of natural problems in the United States. In description and narrative the book is extremely meagre, but these features are not essential to satisfy the curiosity of the class who are eager to seek their fortunes toward the setting sun, and for equal interest, mainly, it was written. It will be of equal interest, however, to all who watch the development of the great West.

THE AMERICAN KENNEL AND SPORTING FIELD. By Arnold Burgess. J. B. Ford & Co. This book treats of breeding, breaking and kennel management of the different kinds of sporting dogs, and is very interesting and will repay perusal. It is illustrated with likenesses of English and Irish setters and pointers. Gentlemen who indulge in field sports requiring dogs will find much valuable information in this book.

LITERARY CHAT.

The London *Sportman* is to be issued hereafter as a daily journal, price one penny. The learned Professor Hecle's "History of the Councils of the Church" is at last being translated into English, and the second volume will soon appear from Clark's Edinburgh Press.

Longmans, the London publisher, announces a series of French classics, to include translations of the dramatists from the sixteenth century to the present time.

The second volume of the Earl of Shelburne's memoirs, says the *Athenaeum*, proves that he was as bad a lawyer as any of his contemporaries and nearly as bad as Lord Chatham, his master and model. One of the complete Oriental libraries ever formed was collected by Jules Mohr, and will be sold at auction in Paris in May. The Mohr portion is very rich and has some splendid manuscripts.

The busy and indefatigable Mrs. Oliphant will next write a series of papers on Windsor Castle for the *St. Nicholas Magazine*. To the many collections of books illustrative of English folk-lore has been added Mr. T. F. Dyer's "British Popular Customs," arranged according to the calendar of the year.

Macmillan & Co., London and New York, will very shortly issue "Floral Decorations for Dwelling Houses," by Miss Annie Hazard, edited by an American expert.

Mr. A. D. Whitney, one of the most popular of Yankee story writers, calls her next book, now in Osgood's press, "Sights and Laughs." It is a novel of New England life.

James Miller has in press some letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, in connection with R. H. Thorne's without-censorship.

An extensive list of two volumes, of the city of New York, by Martha A. Lamb, long in preparation, is in the press of A. S. Barnes & Co.

J. H. Coates & Co., Philadelphia, will print "King and Commonwealth: A History of Charles I. and the Great Rebellion," by Messrs. Cordery and Philpotts.

The great Egyptian "Book of the Dead" is to be published from a thorough collection of the different manuscript texts, under the auspices of the Berlin Academy and the British Museum.

A new Franco-Russian review has been started in Paris, styled *Le Spectateur: Revue Franco-Russe*.

NEW YORK COMMUNISTS.

WHAT THE COMMUNISTS THINK AND WANT. The annual meeting of the Communist fraternity of New York was held on the 18th inst. at No. 283 Broadway. The object of the meeting was to celebrate the anniversary of the 18th of March, 1871, memorable in the annals of modern France. In imitation of Anglo-Saxon customs, what the French report terms a "lunch" was provided. The meeting began at seven P. M., Citizen Davis presiding.

At the opening of the proceedings Auguste Blanqui was elected by acclamation to the honorary presidency. Letters from his correspondents in Europe and America to the society were read, and a propagandist committee, consisting of the Citizens P. Timpoli, C. Reuter, Y. Estaban, Van Berg and David (Secretary) was elected. Then followed the toasts:

By Citizen Crossen—To Auguste Blanqui, the indefatigable athlete of the great social struggle of labor against capital; to the great revolutionary Communist, the leader of the army of equality, to which the members of this society esteem it an honor to belong, may I provide for the future of such a noble cause, to the prison walls within which a terrible middle class hold him.

Death had already opened Blanqui's prison doors for him.

By Citizen Kinkaid—To the union of true revolutionists. Let us be united, in order to raise the courage of faint-hearted workers. But in order to compass that union let us stand out of the revolutionary army of hypocrites who look upon the struggle simply as a means of attaining position, of gratifying personal ambition and of securing a share of the spoils of the revolution.

By Citizen Haskins—To the memory of P. P. By a New Member—To the Communist Revolutionary Society, to its aspirations and its success. Friends, I thank you for having admitted me among you, for, like you, I want to see a speedy revolution.

To long the yoke has weighed upon us, and the violence of the shock must overcome the tightness of the yoke. It is not revolting for us, workmen, to endure hunger and go to bed in rags, while a pack of do-birds call for capitalist society, revel in luxury and spend money. I am an atheist, for we cannot admit what science positively denies. I am for a proletarian dictatorship in order to consummate the social revolution. We need an iron wrist to maintain the middle class after its defeat, to mould it to the new social conditions if it yields to greed it to powder if it resists. Long live the social revolution! Hurrah for equality.

These cries were repeated, with tremendous enthusiasm, by all present.

Citizen Davis then remarked that it was getting late, and it would be well for the members of the society to present themselves at the meeting in progress at the Germania and Germania Rooms in favor of the widows and orphans of the Communists.

The motion was adopted, and the president declared the meeting closed. At this time a despatch was received from Paris, which was read by Citizen Davis, and which stated that the same was being done at St. Louis and Boston.

FUNERAL OF BENJAMIN AYMAR.

The funeral of Benjamin Aymar, of the shipping house of Aymar & Co., one of the oldest merchants of the city, took place yesterday afternoon from Grace church, of which Mr. Aymar was the oldest vestryman.

The numerous relatives and friends of the deceased almost filled the church. The casket, which was of rosewood with solid silver handles, was almost hidden from view by the floral tributes, which were of the most elegant description. The services were conducted by the Rev. Bishop Potter, assisted by Bishop Huntington and the Rev. J. Clough Tibbatts.

At an early hour yesterday morning a patrolman of the Eighth precinct, South Brooklyn, found the body of a man lying in a vacant lot on the line of Seventh avenue, between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, and, procuring an ambulance, had the remains removed to the station house. It was there ascertained that deceased was a man of intemperate habits, and had been on a spree for several days. His name was James Aymar, and he was thirty years of age. He was a native of France, and had been in the city for some time. He was found by the patrolman at about midnight, and was taken to the station house.

There is little or no life in the book that shows an intimate comprehension of varying character and mood far beyond the years of the writer—a knowledge of the lessons of life that seems like experience. We commend the book to all lovers of true poetry, sure that they will thank us for introducing them to it, and that before they close it they will share our sadness that such great gifts should have been shut out from attaining to full fruition. What "Edith May" has given to us while she could be too precious to be "willingly let die."

THE BLACK HILLS: Routes, scenery, soil, climate, timber, gold, geology, etc. By Colonel J. I. Dodge. James Miller, publisher.

The military chief of the Black Hills expedition of last summer has written a brief account of the country explored, which will doubtless be sought and read by those whose imaginations have been inflamed by the glowing pictures of the "New Eldorado" which are reflected from Western cameras. They will glean from

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THE EXHIBITION. PRESENT CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS—WHY EXHIBITORS ARE BEHINDHAND—A HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1876. The date of the opening of the Exhibition is less than eight weeks distant, but a vast amount of work yet remains to be done to have everything in place on the 10th of May. The three principal Exhibition structures—the main building, Machinery Hall and Horticultural Hall—have been for some time ready for the reception of goods, and exhibitors cannot but have the advantage of those facilities, and the buildings, consequently, remain comparatively empty. The remaining two of the five main structures—Agricultural building and Memorial Hall, or the Art gallery, with its new extension—are yet unfinished, considerable work remaining to be done on both. The knowledge of these facts has led observers to fear that the emptiness of the completed buildings and the backwardness of two important ones at this late date have indicated an indifference on the part of exhibitors in sending goods to occupy the spaces assigned them, and a probability that everything would be in confused unreadiness at the opening day. To be behind time with an international exhibition is to follow precedent, to be unprepared at the opening day being the rule with such affairs conducted by "the effete despots of Europe." Something better is expected of Centennial shows, which have so far been further advanced in preparation than any previous world's fair, and it is gratifying to know, upon the assurances of the Centennial Commission, that we need no longer "view with alarm" the apparent dangers of disappointment and delay.

In regard to the completion of the two principal unfinished buildings, the commission says that by this date the Agricultural building and the Horticultural building will both be ready for the reception of goods, thus practically demonstrating the claim of being further advanced in readiness than other exhibitions have been to open.

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THE EXHIBITION. PRESENT CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS—WHY EXHIBITORS ARE BEHINDHAND—A HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT. PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1876. The date of the opening of the Exhibition is less than eight weeks distant, but a vast amount of work yet remains to be done to have everything in place on the 10th of May. The three principal Exhibition structures—the main building, Machinery Hall and Horticultural Hall—have been for some time ready for the reception of goods, and exhibitors cannot but have the advantage of those facilities, and the buildings, consequently, remain comparatively empty. The remaining two of the five main structures—Agricultural building and Memorial Hall, or the Art gallery, with its new extension—are yet unfinished, considerable work remaining to be done on both. The knowledge of these facts has led observers to fear that the emptiness of the completed buildings and the backwardness of two important ones at this late date have indicated an indifference on the part of exhibitors in sending goods to occupy the spaces assigned them, and a probability that everything would be in confused unreadiness at the opening day. To be behind time with an international exhibition is to follow precedent, to be unprepared at the opening day being the rule with such affairs conducted by "the effete despots of Europe." Something better is expected of Centennial shows, which have so far been further advanced in preparation than any previous world's fair, and it is gratifying to know, upon the assurances of the Centennial Commission, that we need no longer "view with alarm" the apparent dangers of disappointment and delay.

In regard to the completion of the two principal unfinished buildings, the commission says that by this date the Agricultural building and the Horticultural building will both be ready for the reception of goods, thus practically demonstrating the claim of being further advanced in readiness than other exhibitions have been to open.

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